



4-8 July, 1999 XVI Soroptimist International Convention,
Helsinki, Finland

Federation Roundup
from *Helsinki Hotline*

The four Federation Presidents briefed Convention on the work of their Federations.

Pamela Lee GBI, outlined recent changes to the Federation Constitution to give a vote on the Executive Council to each member country; and outlined several projects including landmines, street children (GBI's millennium project), provision of schools and teachers; and provision of a village clinic in Bangladesh.

Margaret Lobo SWP, spoke of education to enable the girl child to reach her potential as the theme for much excellent work in her Federation. She described projects, including the "Baby think it over" programme; provision of scholarships; grants to shanty dwellers to build homes with water supply, and provision of food, clothing and counselling following natural disasters in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Helen van Themsche SIE, described work done under SI/E's two key programme areas - Multiculturalism (1995-1997) and The Child of Violence (1997-1999); and told how SIE's several funds have supported education and humanitarian programmes, including support for refugees in Ljubljana, Rwanda and Kosovo.

Donna Walker SIA, gave examples of projects undertaken across the Federation, illustrating how the cultures and prevailing attitudes of the different countries influence their work to achieve Soroptimist goals; and a video showed projects undertaken by clubs with grants under the Federation's "Make a Difference" grant scheme.